States and UTs which are presently implementing the scheme are as under:—

1.	Assam	9.	Madhya Pradesh
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10.	Maharashtra
3.	Bihar	11.	Meghalaya
4.	Goa	12.	Orissa
5.	Gujarat	13.	Tamil Nadu
6.	Himachal Pradesh	14.	Uttar Pradesh
7.	Karnataka	15.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
8.	Kerala	16.	Pondicherry

(d) The Schemes was. circulated to all the States/UTs for implementation. It is voluntary in nature and available for all the States. The remaining States have not implemented it because of inadequate awareness in the initial stages and certain reservations expressed by some of them. However, these States may also join in due course of time.

Position of Indian Cotton in International Market

† 468. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased *to* state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cotton produced in the country is not succeeding in the competition in international market due to its low quality and higher price;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether Government have contemplated any effective step to reduce the cost of cotton production in the country and to improve its quality; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Indian cotton is discounted in international market due to poor quality of ginning, imperfect packing, contamination and higher trash contents.

(b) to (d) In order to improve the yield and the quality of cotton, the Government of India has approved the implementation of a Centrally Sponsored scheme of Technology Mission on Cotton in January, 2000. The Mission consists of four. Mini-Mission. The Mini-Mission-I on research is to be dealt by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for evolving newer and better varieties/ technologies suited to different agro-climatic conditions of the country for improving the yield and quality of cotton.

The department of agriculture and Cooperation is responsible for the implementation of Mini-Minssion-II for enhancing production through the modification of on-going Scheme of Intensive Cotton Development Programme. The Intensive Cotton Development Programme envisages to enhance production and productivity through various extension/developmental activities such as transfer of technologies by field demonstration-farmers training, supply of certified seeds of varieties released during last fifteen years, use of water saving devices like sprinkler and drip system, establishment of seed delinting machines and various activities of pest control including setting up of bioagent unit, surveillance, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), demonstration-cum-training supply of sprayers/ pheromone trap/bio-agents.

The Ministry of Textiles is nodal Ministry for implementation of Mini-Mission-III and Mini-Mission-IV. The Mini-Mission-III is meant for the development of marketing infra-structure by undertaking activities like construction of marketing yards, auction centres, grading facilities, laboratories for testing quality *of* cotton. The Mini-MissionrlV aims at upgradation and modernisation of ginning and pressing factories for the production of better quality cotton.